

Serial No. 09/555,140

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A filter element in which several layers (2, 3, 5, 7, 8) made of a filtering medium are joined contiguously in the direction of flow with at least one layer (2, 7) made of a filtering medium with a high storage capacity and a low degree of separation being arranged on the in-flow side and at least one layer (3, 8) made of a filtering medium with a low storage capacity and a high degree of separation being arranged on the out-flow side. Preferably the in-flow filtering medium is made of a filter paper containing cellulose or of a melt-blown material, and the out-flow side filtering medium is produced from a filter paper containing cellulose.